

*Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount*MURFREESB^o 11th Dec^r 1821

My Dear Father,

You will no doubt be surprised at receiving a letter from me at this place, when you expected I was on my way home before this, but much more so when I inform you that from this I return to Nashville and send another to N. C. in my place—To enable me to accomplish even a part of your business, to wit, raising money and what was almost as hard, to exchange it for the kind which would suit your purposes, has detained me till this time and yet have not done all that I desired or had—promises to be performed—On arriving here, I found the roads so bad, and a continuance of Snow or rain, that a due regard for my health, induced me to abandon my journey to N. Carolina this winter, to return to Nashville, and from thence as soon as the river will permit, take passage in a steam boat for Orleans, and from thence opportunities offer weekly in packets for Charleston, Baltimore or some of the Atlantic ports—The roads were so bad I could not return in my carriage & therefore being *compelled* to leave it, I chose rather to sell that & my horses—(2) The journey even thus far has convinced me that I could not travel home in a month, and I do not consider my health such as to justify the attempt, for from my liver complaint I have severe pains in my breast & side & my spleen has increased very much—still I enjoy apparently better health than when I saw you; that is I am stronger, eat hearty, but do not sleep well, not being able to lie but on one side—if however I can have a good passage from Orleans, I have great hopes that a sea voyage even in winter will be beneficial—These are my reasons for the course I am about to pursue—I know your anxiety to see me & the necessity for my presence at home, but to be there & confined is worse than roaming about, for there I have some hopes of a recovery—if then none, & I much fear I never shall be able to remain long in any one place if I expect to enjoy tolerable health—I have made a contract with Mr. Sublett, that he will carry my servant, horses, &c. &c. home and am to pay him 2\$ per day while travelling from this and back & pay expenses, and furnish him with a horse—By him I send a favorite grey, saddle &c. which you will please have sent to San Souci & direct I wish to have him well taken care of as I keep him for the saddle (3) and probably the only horse I shall ever own or want—You had best give Sublett the long bay to return on as I shall order the sale of him on his return, the other bay you will keep or dispose of as you please—he is only 4 years old—